

Theater with a Mission's
El retablo de las maravillas, Where Only the Pure See Miracles

This short, funny play was written 400 years ago, while Florida was part of the Spanish empire. Sassy as a sketch from Saturday Night Live, it pokes fun at people who think their bloodlines make them better than everybody else, and still makes audiences laugh out loud today.

Here's the story in a nutshell: A tiny troupe of actors comes to town the same day as a big society wedding. To entertain the wedding party at the wedding reception, the actors sell the bride's family a show that "only people whose parents were married by a priest will be able to see." Since nobody in this family could possibly have parents who were NOT properly married in church – the Governor is their cousin, after all, and he comes to the reception to see the performance – everybody watching the show has to pretend to see all the miracles that the actors tell them they're putting on stage.

Funny? Wickedly! But here's the good part: In less than half an hour, this play brings you face to face with the way people lived and laughed and thought and loved right here in Florida hundreds of years ago, when our great-great-grandparents from Europe and Africa and Native America were becoming blood kin, and working out ways of sharing places in the sun.

Why see this play? It's 25 minutes packed with great dialog written by Miguel de Cervantes, the smart-mouthed genius who created Don Quixote, the original Man of La Mancha. It's an enchanted moment from Florida's historic past, filled with historically-accurate, toe-tapping songs, dances, and wonderful costumes. It's a delicious satire by Theater with a Mission, Florida's premiere producer of historical theater, and it's won ovations at venues ranging from Tallahassee's Railroad Square to the Blackburn Conference Centre in Toronto, Canada.

Come watch the wonders! Don't miss Theater with a Mission's *El retablo de las maravillas, Where Only the Pure See Miracles*.

